

## Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 BRUSSE 03462 231602Z

ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 W

-----000721 231603Z /41

O 231228Z FEB 78

FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5062

INFO AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE

USMISSION USNATO IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T BRUSSELS 03462

NODIS

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (TEXT PARA 4.)

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MNUC, NATO, NPG, BE

SUBJECT: ENHANCED RADIATION WARHEAD: MESSAGE FROM  
THE SECRETARY

REF: STATE 44903

1. THE SECRETARY'S LETTER TO FOREIGN MINISTER SIMONET  
WAS DELIVERED TO HIS CHEF DE CABINET ALFRED CAHEN  
FEBRUARY 22, IN THE TEMPORARY ABSENCE OF SIMONET.

2. WE HAD AN OPPORTUNITY LATER ON FEB. 22 TO DISCUSS THE  
SUBJECT WITH THE FOREIGN MINISTRY CHIEF OF NATO AFFAIRS,  
BAL, WHO HAD BEEN IN TOUCH WITH CAHEN.

3. THE INITIAL FOREIGN MINISTRY REACTION (PENDING  
RECEIPT OF THE FOREIGN MINISTER'S VIEWS) WAS SERIOUS  
CONCERN. WE WERE TOLD THAT BELGIANS, WHILE WILLING TO  
CONSULT ON THE ISSUE, WERE GREATLY CONCERNED THAT  
THEY WOULD BE PUSHED INTO HAVING TO MAKE A DECISION

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 BRUSSE 03462 231602Z

BEFORE SUFFICIENT TIME HAD ELAPSED TO PERMIT A CONSENSUS  
OF POLITICAL FORCES IN BELGIUM TO EMERGE. THE RISK,  
IN SUCH A CASE, WOULD BE THAT INTERNAL POLITICS IN  
BELGIUM MIGHT NOT PERMIT A FAVORABLE DECISION.

4. THE BELGIANS TOLD US THAT THEY WERE AWARE THAT THE  
USG WANTED TO HAVE THE ER/RB QUESTION ADDRESSED BY

ITS ALLIES BEFORE REACHING A DECISION AND THAT THEY HAD INDICATIONS THAT A MESSAGE SIMILAR TO THE ONE RECEIVED WAS BEING PREPARED. THEY ALSO TOLD US THAT THEY WERE AWARE OF AN INTEREST ON THE PART OF THE WEST GERMANS TO HAVE THE ISSUE RESOLVED QUICKLY. THE BELGIANS SAID THEY COULD UNDERSTAND USG "FRUSTRATIONS" WITH THE SLOW-MOVING BELGIAN DECISION-MAKING PROCESS, BUT SAID THAT THIS WAS A FACT OF POLITICAL LIFE IN BELGIUM. THEY ASSERTED THAT PRESSURE FOR QUICK DECISIONS UPON THE BELGIAN GOVERNMENT RAISED THE SERIOUS RISK THAT A QUICK DECISION WOULD COME OUT NEGATIVE. THEY ALSO CLAIMED THAT THE BELGIAN GOVERNMENT IS NOT EQUIPPED TO ADDRESS SEVERAL IMPORTANT POLICY QUESTIONS AT THE SAME TIME. THEY COMPARED THEIR POLITICAL SYSTEM TO ELECTRICAL CIRCUITRY AND NOTED THE DANGER OF OVERLOADING THE CIRCUIT WITH THE RISK THAT ALL THE FUSES MIGHT BLOW. AT THE MOMENT, THE HAWK-HELIP ISSUE AND THE RESULTING CRITICISM OF THE MINISTRY OF DEFENSES MANAGEMENT OF BELGIAN DEFENSE POLICY HAS THE ATTENTION OF EVERYONE IN BELGIAN POLITICS CONCERNED WITH MILITARY ISSUES. THE ER/RB WEAPON QUESTION HAS NOW BEEN ADDED TO THE LOAD AS AN URGENT ISSUE AND SEVERAL OTHER IMPORTANT POL/MIL ISSUES (E.G. COLLOCATION, JOINT STORAGE SITES) ARE PENDING. THUS THERE HAS BEEN A "CONVERGENCE" OF DIFFICULT PROBLEMS COMING TO A HEAD NOW.

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 BRUSSE 03462 231602Z

5. WE WERE TOLD THAT WE COULD EXPECT THE BELGIAN PERMREP AT THE FEBRUARY 24 NAC DISCUSSION TO TAKE THE LINE HEREIN SET FORTH AND TO TRY TO OBTAIN MORE TIME BEFORE A BELGIAN DECISION ON THE ER/RB ISSUE IS REQUIRED.  
CHAMBERS

SECRET

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptoning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** CAT-B, PLANNING MEETINGS, MEETINGS, NUCLEAR WEAPONS, NUCLEAR WEAPONS DEPLOYMENT, DIPLOMATIC COMMUNICATIONS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 23 feb 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1978BRUSSE03462  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** OA  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** P850101-2387  
**Format:** TEL  
**From:** BRUSSELS  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1978/newtext/t19780224/aaaaatzh.tel  
**Line Count:** 99  
**Litigation Code IDs:**  
**Litigation Codes:**  
**Litigation History:**  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Message ID:** f06c9ed1-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Office:** ACTION NODS  
**Original Classification:** SECRET  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** NODIS  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** SECRET  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** NODIS  
**Reference:** 78 STATE 44903  
**Retention:** 0  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 17 may 2005  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 3510891  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** ENHANCED RADIATION WARHEAD: MESSAGE FROM THE SECRETARY  
**TAGS:** TNUC, MNUC, PPDC, BE, US, NL, GE, NATO, NPG, (VANCE, CYRUS T), (SIMONET, HENRI)  
**To:** STATE THE HAGUE MULTIPLE  
**Type:** TE  
**vdkvgwkey:** odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/f06c9ed1-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
20 Mar 2014  
**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014